

## PRIMARY FY 1996 FOCUS

**Teaming:** To transition to the Disability Claim Manager (DCM) position

- ▶ Implement teaming and sequential interviewing
- ▶ Phase-in Early Decision List (EDL)

**Methodology:** To develop a simplified methodology

- ▶ Award research contract on occupational classifications
- ▶ Analyze results from the functional assessment contract

**DCM:** To identify how the DCM position can operate without the envisioned enablers

- ▶ Begin tests in Federal and State sites, including Disability Processing Centers (DPCs)

**Evidence:** To streamline and simplify the evidence collection process

- ▶ Implement Consultative Examination/Medical Evidence of Record (CE/MER) Provider orientation
- ▶ Implement procedures to enhance claimant participation
- ▶ Streamline current disability policy and procedures

**Disability Models Tests:** To evaluate the pre-decision contact, the elimination of the medical consultant sign-off and the elimination of the reconsideration

- ▶ Begin single decisionmaker and full process tests in Federal and State sites

**Quality Assurance:** To develop consistent Quality Assurance (QA) at all levels

- ▶ Develop in-line and end-of-line procedures
- ▶ Coordinate QA procedures with other redesign features

**Adjudication Officer:** To test streamlining of the appeals process

- ▶ Complete testing in Federal and State sites
- ▶ Evaluate test results
- ▶ Begin national roll-out of Adjudication Officer (AO) position

**Appeals Council:** To streamline the appeals process

- ▶ Begin testing the elimination of the request for review
- ▶ Increase own-motion review of Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) decisions

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**Process Unification:** To develop a single policy source for all adjudicators

- ▶ Publish Social Security Rulings (SSRs) on pain, weighing evidence and Residual Functional Capacity (RFC)
- ▶ Provide intercomponent training
- ▶ Finalize format and mechanism for One Book

**Communications:** To build support and gain cooperation to test and implement redesign changes

- ▶ To continue communicating fully and openly with internal and external audiences
- ▶ Continue aggressive campaign to build bridges of trust